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RECORD YIELDS FOR CORN, HAY, AND DARK TOBACCO

Tennessee producers are forecasting record breaking yields for their corn, hay, and dark-type tobacco crops during 2001, according to the October 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS). Projected yields increased for almost all crops over the previous forecast with better than average yields also expected for soybeans, cotton, and burley tobacco. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician of TASS, noted that “With harvest nearing completion for some crops and well underway for others, expected yields are now beginning to come more into focus and are better than anticipated a month ago.” She added, “If projected record and above average yields are realized, this will be a year that Tennessee farmers have not seen in a quite a while.” Results of the survey showed the following: **Cotton**, 666 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month; **Corn**, 132 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month and a new state record; **Soybeans**, 35 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month; **Other Hay**, 2.50 tons per acre, up 0.4 tons from August and a new state record; and **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, the same as last month. Dark tobacco types, all forecast at new records, are: **Type 22**, 2,800 pounds per acre; **Type 23**, 3,200 pounds per acre; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds per acre.

COTTON YIELD PROSPECTS IMPROVE FROM LAST MONTH

Cotton production is forecast at 840,000 bales, up 2 percent from last month and 18 percent from 2000. If realized, this will be the highest production since 1994. Yield is expected to average 666 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month and 63 pounds above a year ago. As of the first week of October, virtually all of the state’s cotton fields had open bolls and defoliation was 84 percent complete. Harvest was rapidly approaching the halfway mark, which is on pace with the 5-year average, but almost a week behind a year ago. Harvested area, at 605,000 acres, is up 7 percent from the previous year.

RECORD CORN YIELDS ANTICIPATED

Corn production is forecast at 75.2 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month and 12 percent above 2000. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 132 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month and 18 bushels more than a year ago. If achieved, this would be the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record set in 1992 by 8 bushels. Although wet conditions slowed corn harvest the first week of September, mostly dry weather the remainder of the month allowed producers to make excellent progress and finish the month on pace with normal. Harvest of the estimated 570,000 acres for grain was 88 percent complete by the first week of October, slightly behind a year ago.

NEAR RECORD YIELDS EXPECTED FOR SOYBEAN CROP

Soybean production is forecast at 36.8 million bushels, an increase of 6 percent over the previous month and 28 percent above 2000. Yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month and 10 bushels above a year ago. This is the highest expected yield in 5 years, falling short of the state record set in 1994 by 1.5 bushels. September’s weather provided excellent conditions for double cropped soybean development, as rainfall was timely and temperatures moderate. As of October 7, seventy-two percent of the soybean acreage had shed leaves and 17 percent was harvested, both on pace with the 5-year average. Area expected for harvest is estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 9 percent from 2000 and the smallest acreage since 1995.

(OVER)

TOBACCO CROP HOLDS STEADY IN TENNESSEE

Burley tobacco production is forecast at 68.0 million pounds, 4 percent below 2000 and the smallest production since 1989. Yield, at 2,000 pounds per acre, is unchanged from last month, but 80 pounds above a year ago. Production of Tennessee’s dark tobacco types were down from the previous year, although record yields are forecast for each. Eastern Dark-Fired (22) and Western Dark-Fired (23) production is forecast at 17.1 and 1.60 million pounds, respectively, both down 20 percent from 2000. Types 22 and 23 yields are forecast at 2,800 and 3,200 pounds per acre, respectively. Dark-Air Cured (Type 35) production is forecast at 1.55 million pounds off the strength of an expected record yield of 2,500 pounds per acre. The majority of the burley and dark-type crops had been harvested by the first week of October.

HAY YIELDS SET A NEW STATE RECORD

Production of other hay, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at a new state record 5.13 million tons, up 19 percent from the August forecast and 11 percent above 2000. Yields are expected to average a record 2.50 tons per acre, 0.2 tons above the previous record set a year ago. Harvested area is estimated at 2.05 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. The state’s hay fields and pastures greatly benefitted from timely rains and moderate temperatures during August and September. By the end of September, producers were wrapping up harvest with numerous reports of second and third cuttings.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2001, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,500	9,500
Corn for grain	bu.	590	570	114	132	67,260	75,240
Cotton ¹	lb.	565	605	603	666	710	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	2,050	2.30	2.50	4,600	5,125
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,500	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,150	1,050	25.0	35.0	28,750	36,750
Tobacco, All	lb.	46.02	41.22	2,085	2,140	95,958	88,230
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.7	6.1	2,760	2,800	21,252	17,080
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.64	.50	3,125	3,200	2,000	1,600
Burley (31)	lb.	37.0	34.0	1,920	2,000	71,040	68,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.68	.62	2,450	2,500	1,666	1,550
Winter Wheat	bu.	380	340	55.0	54.0	20,900	18,360
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,648,700	9,560,400
Corn for grain	bu.	72,732	69,191	137.1	136.3	9,968,358	9,429,543
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,053.0	14,138.0	632	681	17,188.3	20,072.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,777	40,083	1.95	2.01	71,836	80,675
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,599,800	2,537,300
Soybeans	bu.	72,408	74,137	38.1	39.2	2,757,810	2,907,042
Tobacco, All	lb.	472.43	451.24	2,229	2,299	1,052,998	1,037,569
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	11.80	9.40	2,896	2,800	34,167	26,320
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	4.44	3.60	3,360	3,286	14,920	11,830
Burley (31)	lb.	185.40	174.90	1,957	2,127	362,788	372,074
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.78	3.42	2,901	2,664	10,966	9,110
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,072	31,295	44.7	43.5	1,566,023	1,361,479

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about October 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.